

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

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1. (Currently Amended) A damper mechanism comprising:

a first rotary member;

a second rotary member being configured to rotate relative to said first rotary member;

a damper section being configured to couple elastically said first rotary member and said second rotary member together in a rotational direction, said damper section including an intermediate rotary member being configured to rotate relatively to said first and second rotary members;

a friction mechanism being configured to generate friction when said first rotary member and said second rotary member rotate relative to each other, said friction mechanism including a friction rotary member being configured to contact said second and intermediate rotary members in said rotational direction;

a friction suppressing mechanism being configured to prevent said friction mechanism from operating within a prescribed angular range; and

an elastic member being configured to soften the impact between members that contact each other at an end of said prescribed angular range.

2. (Original) The damper mechanism according to claim 1, wherein said elastic member is arranged to be compressed in the rotational direction within said prescribed angular range.

3. (Currently Amended) The damper mechanism according to claim 2, wherein
~~said friction-suppressing mechanism has two members aligned in the rotational
direction and~~

said elastic member is disposed rotationally between said friction rotary member and
said intermediate rotary member ~~two members~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The damper mechanism according to claim 3, wherein
said intermediate rotary member includes ~~two members comprise~~ a first plate-like
member having a hole formed therein, said friction rotary member includes ~~and~~ a second
member being arranged within said hole such that said second member can move in the
rotational direction, and

said elastic member is arranged inside said hole in rotational alignment with said
second member, said elastic member is configured to be compressed between said second
member and an edge of said hole.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended) The damper mechanism according to claim 1, wherein
~~said friction-suppressing mechanism has two members aligned in the rotational
direction and~~

said elastic member is disposed rotationally between said friction rotary member and said intermediate rotary member ~~two members~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The damper mechanism according to claim 7, wherein said intermediate rotary member includes ~~two members comprise~~ a first plate-like member having a hole formed therein, said friction rotary member includes and a second member being arranged within said hole such that said second member can move in the rotational direction, and

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said elastic member is arranged inside said hole in rotational alignment with said second member, said elastic member is configured to be compressed between said second member and an edge of said hole.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) A clutch disk assembly being configured to transfer torque from an engine and dampen vibrations from a flywheel, the clutch disk assembly comprising:

an input rotary member;

an output rotary member being disposed to rotate relative to said input rotary member;

a damper mechanism having

a spring member being configured to couple rotationally said input rotary member and said output rotary member, and

a torsion characteristic having

a positive side corresponding to said input rotary member being
twisted in a rotational drive direction with respect to said output rotary
member,

a negative side corresponding to said input rotary member being
twisted in a direction opposite said rotational drive direction with
respect to said output rotary member,

a first stage, and

a second stage corresponding to said spring member being compressed,
said second stage having a higher rigidity than said first stage, said
second stage existing on both said positive side and said negative side,
and

an intermediate rotary member being configured to rotate relatively to
said input and output rotary members;

a friction mechanism being configured to generate friction when said input rotary
member and said output rotary member rotate relative to each other within said second stage
and said spring member exerts an elastic force, said friction mechanism including a friction
rotary member being configured to contact said output and intermediate rotary members in
said rotational direction;

a friction suppressing mechanism being configured to secure a rotational gap in said
second stage, said friction suppressing mechanism being configured to prevent said elastic
force of said spring member from acting on said friction mechanism within a prescribed
angular range; and

an elastic member being configured to soften the impact between members that contact each other at an end of said prescribed angular range.

12. (Original) The clutch disk assembly according to claim 11, wherein said elastic member is arranged to be compressed in the rotational direction within said prescribed angular range.

13. (Currently Amended) The clutch disk assembly according to claim 12, wherein

B4 ~~said friction-suppressing mechanism has two members aligned in the rotational direction and~~

said elastic member is disposed rotationally between said friction rotary member and said intermediate rotary member ~~two members~~.

14. (Currently Amended) The clutch disk assembly according to claim 13, wherein

said intermediate rotary member includes ~~two members comprise~~ a first plate-like member having a hole formed therein, said first plate-like member is arranged axially adjacent said input rotary member, ~~and~~ said friction rotary member includes a second member being arranged within said hole such that said second member can move in the rotational direction relative to said first plate-like member, and

said elastic member is arranged inside said hole in rotational alignment with said second member, said elastic member is configured to be compressed between said second member and an edge of said hole.

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) The clutch disk assembly according to claim 11,
wherein

~~said friction suppressing mechanism has two members aligned in the rotational
direction and~~

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said elastic member is disposed rotationally between said friction rotary member and
said intermediate rotary member ~~two members~~.

18. (Currently Amended) The clutch disk assembly according to claim 17,
wherein

said intermediate rotary member includes ~~two members comprise~~ a first plate-like
member having a hole formed therein, said first plate-like member is arranged axially
adjacent said input rotary member, ~~and~~ said friction rotary member includes a second
member being arranged within said hole such that said second member can move in the
rotational direction relative to said first plate-like member, and

said elastic member is arranged inside said hole in rotational alignment with said
second member, said elastic member is configured to be compressed between said second
member and an edge of said hole.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Cancelled).

21. (New) The damper mechanism according to claim 1, wherein said prescribed angular range comprises a rotational gap, said friction suppressing mechanism defining said gap between said second rotary member and said friction rotary member, and between said friction rotary member and said intermediate rotary member in said rotational direction.

22. (New) The damper mechanism according to claim 4, wherein said hole comprises a first elliptical aperture and a second elliptical aperture, said first and second elliptical apertures are arranged to overlap.

23. (New) The damper mechanism according to claim 22, wherein said first elliptical aperture is larger than said second elliptical aperture.

24. (New) The damper mechanism according to claim 23, wherein said first and second elliptical apertures are circular.

25. (New) The damper mechanism according to claim 23, wherein said elastic member is arranged in said second elliptical aperture.

26. (New) The damper mechanism according to claim 14, wherein said hole comprises a first elliptical aperture and a second elliptical aperture, said first and second elliptical apertures are arranged to overlap.

27. (New) The damper mechanism according to claim 26, wherein said first elliptical aperture is larger than said second elliptical aperture.

28. (New) The damper mechanism according to claim 27, wherein said first and second elliptical apertures are circular.

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29. (New) The damper mechanism according to claim 27, wherein said elastic member is arranged in said second elliptical aperture.

30. (New) The damper mechanism according to claim 11, further comprising a secondary elastic member being arranged to interpose a portion of said friction rotary member with said elastic member.
